

REMARKS

With this Response, Applicants respectfully request that claims 41-63, 83-85, and 88-91 be canceled without prejudice. No other changes are made to the claims. Therefore, claims 1-40, 64-82, 86, and 87 are pending.

ALLOWED SUBJECT MATTER

Applicants kindly acknowledge that claims 1-40, 64-82, 86, and 87 were found to be allowable. The non-allowed claims have been canceled herein to expedite allowance of the allowed claims. Applicants reserve the right to separately pursue the remaining claims.

CLAIM REJECTIONS - 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 41-46, 56-63, and 83-85 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent Number 5,687,171 of Shin et al. (hereinafter "Shin"). These claims are canceled herein, rendering rejection of these claims moot.

CLAIM REJECTIONS - 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 47, 48, and 51 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Shin in view of U.S. Patent Publication Number 2002/072348 of Wheeler et al. (hereinafter "Wheeler").

Claims 49, 50, and 56 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Shin in view of U.S. Patent Publication Number 2002/0087740 of Castanho et al. ("hereinafter Castanho").

Claims 52-54 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Shin in view of U.S. Patent Publication No. 2003/1063393 of Mittal et al. (hereinafter "Mittal").

Claim 55 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Shin in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,680,398 of Robinson (hereinafter "Robinson").

Claims 88-91 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Shin in view of U.S. Patent Publication No. 2003/0133426 of Schein et al. (hereinafter "Schein").

All of these claims are canceled herein, rendering each of the above rejections moot.

CONCLUSION

For at least the foregoing reasons, Applicants submit that the rejections are overcome, and respectfully request that the rejections be withdrawn. Therefore, all pending claims are in condition for allowance, and such action is earnestly solicited. The Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned by telephone if such contact would further the examination of the present application.

Please charge any shortages and credit any overcharges to our Deposit Account number 02-2666.

Respectfully submitted,
BLAKELY, SOKOLOFF, TAYLOR & ZAFMAN, LLP

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/Vincent H. Anderson/
Vincent H. Anderson
Reg. No. 54,962
Attorney for Applicant

1279 Oakmead Parkway
Sunnyvale, CA 94085-4040
(503) 439-8778

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being submitted electronically via EFS Web on the date shown below.

Date: March 15, 2010

/Katherine Campbell /
Katherine Campbell